GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1641
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
INDUSTRIAL UNDERDEVELOPMENT
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy for intervention in districts with chronic unemployment and industrial underdevelopment;

(b) if so, whether the data on these districts is being collected by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion from 16 reports of the Planning Commission, some of which date back to 1960s;

(c) if so, whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Bharat Nirman initiative is likely to be focused in underdeveloped districts in eastern part of the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete programmes prepared in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Various studies in the past have sought to identify industrially backward regions in the country. More recently,with a view to focus on districts specific cases of industrial backwardness, inter-departmental meetings have been held and the relevant data available is being analysed to finalise and implement concrete policy decisions to address purposively the causes of industrial bakwardness in various districts in calibrated manner.

(c) & (d): National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) was launched for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. It has been decided to cover all rural areas of the country under NREGA with effect from 01.04.2008. The initiative also focused under Bharat Nirman in these districts are

(i) Every village to be provided electricity

(ii) Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be provided an all-weather road

(iii) Every habitation to have a safe source of drinking water

(iv) Every village to be connected by telephone

(v) 100 lakhs hectares of additional irrigation capacity to be created by 2009

(vi) 60 lakhs house to be constructed for the rural poor by 2009. Thus both the program will include districts which have remained underdeveloped including those in the eastern region of the country.